

Survey No. B-4519
907 N. Broadway
Baltimore City

HISTORIC CONTEXT

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:	Piedmont (Baltimore City)
Chronological/Developmental Period(s):	Industrial/Urban Dominance (A.D. 1870-1930)
Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):	Architecture
Resource Type:	
Category:	Building
Historic Environment:	Urban
Historic Function(s) and Use(s):	Domestic
Known Design Source:	None

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. B-4519

Magi No.

DOE ☒ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic 907 N. Broadway

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 907 N. Broadway N/A ☐ not for publication

city, town Baltimore City ☐ vicinity of congressional district 7

state Maryland county Baltimore City

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development

street & number 10 S. Howard St. telephone no.: 410-962-2520

city, town Baltimore state and zip code Maryland 21201

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Circuit Court of Baltimore City liberRHB 2400

street & number 100 North Calvert Street folio 316

city, town Baltimore state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title N/A

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. B-4519

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			N/A

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 1

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

907 N. Broadway, constructed around 1870, is a much-altered three-story, three-bay, flat-fronted brick rowhouse. The rowhouse, which has a sidehall entry, underwent a major rehabilitation in the mid-1980s. The interior was gutted, new finishes installed, the cornice replaced, and the window openings partially infilled. Despite its alterations, the building still retains its brick front facade and typical rowhouse form.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

907 N. Broadway is a brick, three-bay mid-block rowhouse that faces west. The rowhouse, which rests on a lighted basement, has a flat roof that slopes back behind the cornice. The front (west) facade has a sidehall entry on the south and graduated window openings. Window openings on the 1st floor correspond to the height of the door opening. The front facade of the building, which is constructed of pressed brick with narrow joints, retains its segmental arches over window openings.

The rear of the main body of the house is similar to the rear of other houses on the block. Two window openings are situated to either side of the facade. There is a door opening at the south end of the rear (east) facade. The rear of the rowhouse is parged. The north wall adjoins a mid-1980s two-story clinic; the portion of the north wall above the clinic has been parged. The south wall adjoins 905 N. Broadway (B-4518).

In the mid-1980s, 907 N. Broadway was completely gutted and modernized. On all but the first floor, recent brick sills replaced the original stone sills. Original fenestration was replaced with recent sash. Both the 1st floor and 3rd floor openings were infilled to accommodate smaller sash. The original entry surround was replaced by a recent post-and-lintel surround. The present wood cornice, which incorporates the dentils, frieze, and modillions of traditional detailing, appears to date to the mid-1980s rehabilitation. On the interior, existing partitions were demolished and new partitions added. The interior was refurbished with new finishes throughout.

The primary change to the secondary facades is the demolition of the rear ells. The 1890 Sanborn Map shows that the building once had a series of rear ells extending east from the south side of the rear facade. A two-story ell adjacent to the house connected with two small one-story ells. It appears that a one-story addition (probably frame) was added to the center ell between 1890 and 1901. A small one-story structure, denoted as a shed in the 1914 Sanborn Map, was located at the rear lot line along the alley. The rear ells and the shed have been demolished.

907 N. Broadway is situated in a neighborhood of similar rowhouses. 907 N. Broadway is the northernmost building of a streetscape of four rowhouses extending north along N. Broadway from Ashland Street. A two-story brick clinic building, constructed in the mid-1980s, adjoins the building to the north. Broadway, one of Baltimore's major thoroughfares, is an esplanade with wide median that

extends from the Northwest Harbor of the Patapsco at Fells Point to Harford Road. Johns Hopkins Medical Center is approximately 3 blocks south of the site. The Penn Central tracks are approximately four blocks north. The neutral ground between Johns Hopkins and this site has recently been planted with trees and grass. The neutral ground north of the site is planted with an allee of mature trees. A narrow alley, paved with cobblestones, is situated at the rear of the site.

8. Significance

Survey No. B-4519

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates ca. 1870 Builder/Architect Not known

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

907 N. Broadway, constructed around 1870, displays the flat brick facade that characterizes the unbroken rowhouse streetscapes of historic Baltimore residential areas. The building is a contributing structure within the Maryland Register North Broadway Historic District.¹

HISTORIC CONTEXT

The original lease for ground rent for 907 N. Broadway suggests that the building was constructed around 1870. In May of that year, Patrick Coughlin executed a lease with the Saint John Building Association for an annual rent of \$50.² Map evidence demonstrates that the east side of the 900 block of N. Broadway was settled between 1856 and 1876. The block on the west side of Broadway between Chew (Ashland) and Barnes is shaded on the 1856 Woods Map of Baltimore; the east side is not. The more detailed 1876 Hopkins Map of Baltimore shows structures on the east side of Broadway between Chew (Ashland) and E. Biddle. The irregularity of the rear ell of the east side of the 900 block of N. Broadway in comparison with other nearby rows suggests either an earlier period of development or several individual developments within the block. The buildings on the east side of the 900 block of N. Broadway all appear in the 1890 Sanborn Map of Baltimore, the earliest Sanborn Map of the city. The 1890 Sanborn shows that the area was well-developed with rowhouses. "Bohemian Hall" was located immediately north of Barnes Street on the west side of Broadway; a primary school (the 1944 Sanborn Map notes that this school was constructed in 1876), English German Public School, and a branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library were all located within a one block radius of the site. There

¹The North Broadway Historic District is an outgrowth of the Middle East Planning Area Historic District, located two blocks east of N. Broadway. The Middle East Planning Area Historic District, the boundaries of which were drawn to correspond to the area of a HUD UDAG grant, was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places; the North Broadway Historic District was determined eligible for the Maryland Register. In contrast with the two story buildings that predominate in the nearby Middle East Planning Area Historic District, the buildings in the North Broadway Historic District are three stories in height. Buildings in the North Broadway Historic District appear to be older than the ca. 1875 buildings in the planning area probably because of their location on Broadway, a major Baltimore thoroughfare.

²GR 465/101.

was a store at 931 N. Broadway at the corner of N. Broadway and Barnes. Additional non-residential uses nearby included a coal and wood yard located across the alley from the primary school, as well as a brewery and a bakery located in rowhouses across the alley behind the 900 block of N. Broadway.

In 1880, 907 N. Broadway was occupied by William S. Smart, an oyster shucker. Smart (age 41) lived with his wife Mary (age 35) and their two children, Mattie and Rosa. The Smarts had a 12 year old servant, Eliza.³ The 1890 census for this tract burned. In 1900, 907 N. Broadway was rented to Robert F. Jefferson (age 49), a vinegar salesman. Jefferson lived there with his wife and four sons. George Jefferson (age 23) was also a vinegar salesman and Howard Jefferson (age 15) worked as an office boy at a vinegar distillery. Leonidas Kirby (age 24), also a vinegar salesman, boarded with the family. Both the Jeffersons and Kirby were born in Maryland of Maryland-born parents.⁴

By 1910, it appears that the house was partitioned into two apartments since two heads of household are listed in the census. Martha Grayden (age 75), who was born in Ireland, and Cynthia Brown (age 70) are both listed as heads. Mrs. Grayden's two unmarried daughters lived with her. Mary Grayden appears to have supported her household as a milliner. Cynthia Brown's daughter Emma Adams and her son William G. Brown lived with her. William Brown (age 29) worked as a steam railroad clerk to support the Brown family.⁵

The 1920 Census indicates that 907 N. Broadway continued to house two households. Thomas C. Bowen (age 54) and his wife Gussia (age 61) are identified as owners. Bowen was a lead burner at a chemical plant. Edward L. Kane (age 32) and his wife, Ida (age 23) were renters. Kane worked as a masseuse at a Turkish bath.⁶

No 1928 Sanborn Maps of this section of Baltimore can be located. A paste-up that appears to date from 1944 shows the physical character of the 900 block of Broadway little changed from 1914. The 1944 paste-up reveals changes in racial composition and use in the area. While the neighboring blocks of rowhouses are noted as dwellings, many of the rowhouses facing N. Broadway are labeled as flats or stores. The public school at the corner of Ashland and Broadway is labeled "Colored." "Bethel Holy Tabernacle (Colored)" is shown at the former location of the Baltimore Chewing Gum Company and "Faith Baptist Church (Colored)" at the corner of N. Bond and Ashland, formerly the location of the English German and later public school. Bohemian Hall's building remains at the northwest corner of Broadway and Barnes, but the Sanborn Map shows it as a store with a hall on the 2nd floor.

³1880 Census.

⁴1900 Census.

⁵1910 Census.

⁶1920 Census.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Please see Continuation Sheet 9.1

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Baltimore East

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 4, Block 1583 of Baltimore City Maryland has historically been associated with the property.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
N/A			

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Betty Bird

organization N/A

date July 20, 1995

street & number 2607 24th St., NW, Suite 3

telephone 202-588-9033

city or town Washington, DC 20008

state N/A

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bird, Betty. Historic American Buildings Survey Documentation for 923-929 N. Broadway, Baltimore, Maryland.

Correspondence from JoEllen Freese to James Nealy, February 25, 1995.

Deed Records and Ground Rent Records, Baltimore Circuit Court

Hopkins, G.M. *City Atlas of Baltimore, Maryland and Environs*. Philadelphia: F. Bourquier, 1876. (Maryland Historical Society)

Middle East Historic District Vertical Files, Baltimore Commission on Architecture and Historic Preservation.

Sanborn Insurance Maps of Baltimore, 1890, 1901-02, 1914-15, 1944 (rev. ca. 1953).

Shivers, Natalie W. *Those Old Placid Rows: The Aesthetic and Development of the Baltimore Rowhouse*. Baltimore: Maclay & Associates, 1981. (Baltimore Commission on Architecture and Historic Preservation)

U.S. Manuscript Census for 1880, 1900, 1910, and 1920.

Woods, John. *Map of Baltimore*, 1856, 1880. (Maryland Historical Society)

The following published collections of photographs depict the visual context of N. Broadway around the rowhouses, but not the 900 block of N. Broadway:

Kelly, Jacques. *The Pratt Library Album: Baltimore Neighborhoods in Focus*. Baltimore: Enoch Pratt Free Library, 1986.

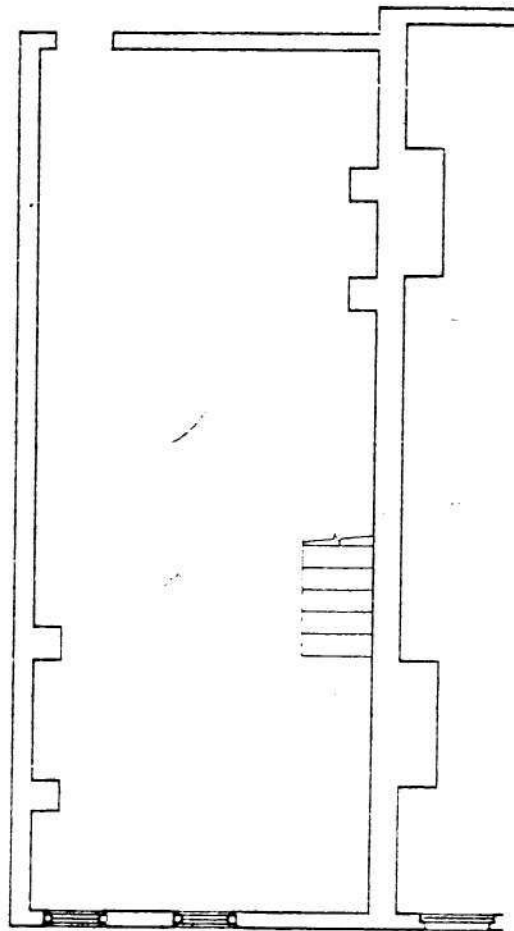
1915 view of North Broadway looking south from North Avenue, p. 117.

Warren, Marian and Mame Warren. *Baltimore When She Was What She Used to Be: A Pictorial History 1850 - 1930*. Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1983.

1911 view of North Broadway looking south from North Avenue, p. 76.

Laura Rice of the Maryland Historical Society stated that there were no historic photographs of the 900 block of Broadway in the Maryland Historical Society collection or at the Peale Museum.

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Baltimore City

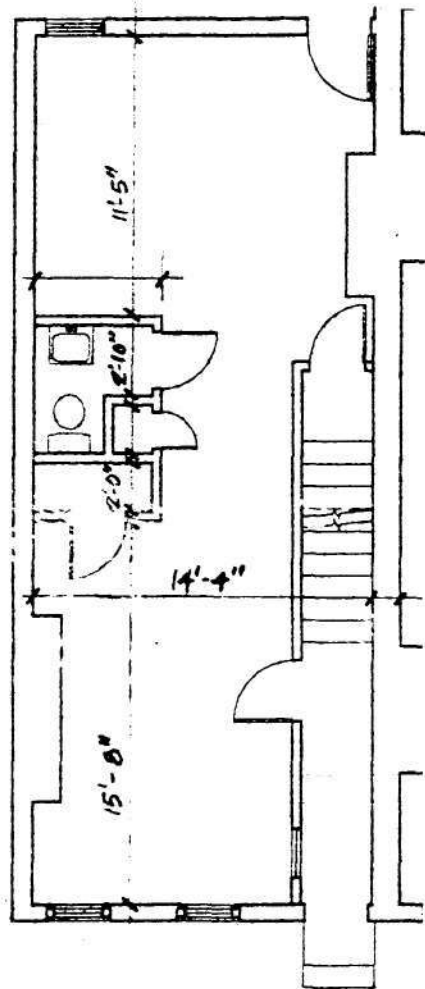


BASEMENT PLAN

Amos Bailey & Lee, Ltd.
Architects & Planners
1994



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907 N. Broadway
Baltimore City

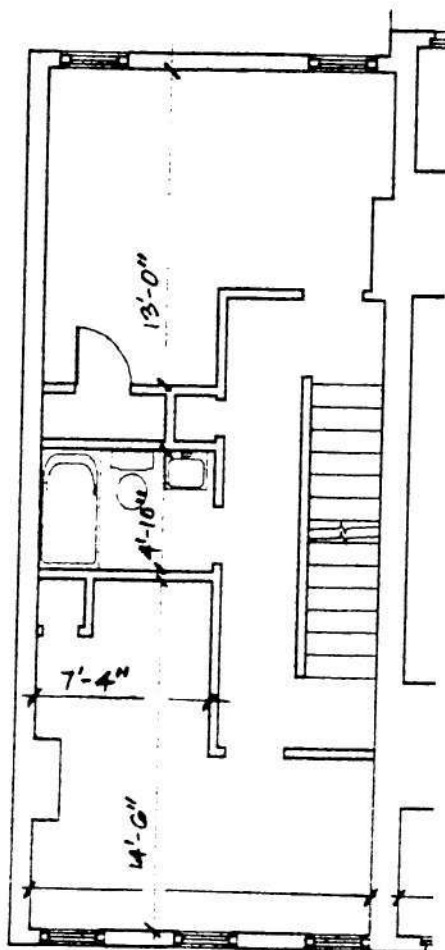


Amos Bailey & Lee, Ltd.
Architects & Planners
1994

FIRST FLOOR PLAN



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907 N. Broadway
Baltimore City

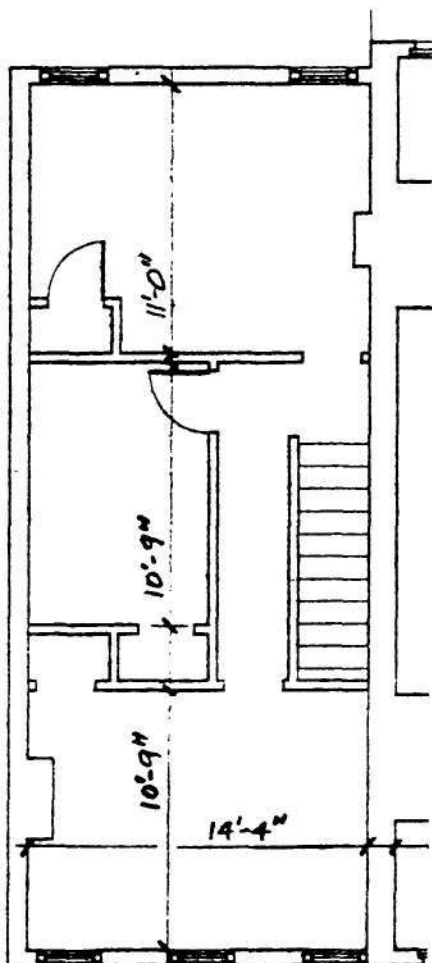


Amos Bailey & Lee, Ltd.
Architects & Planners
1994



SECOND FLOOR

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Baltimore City

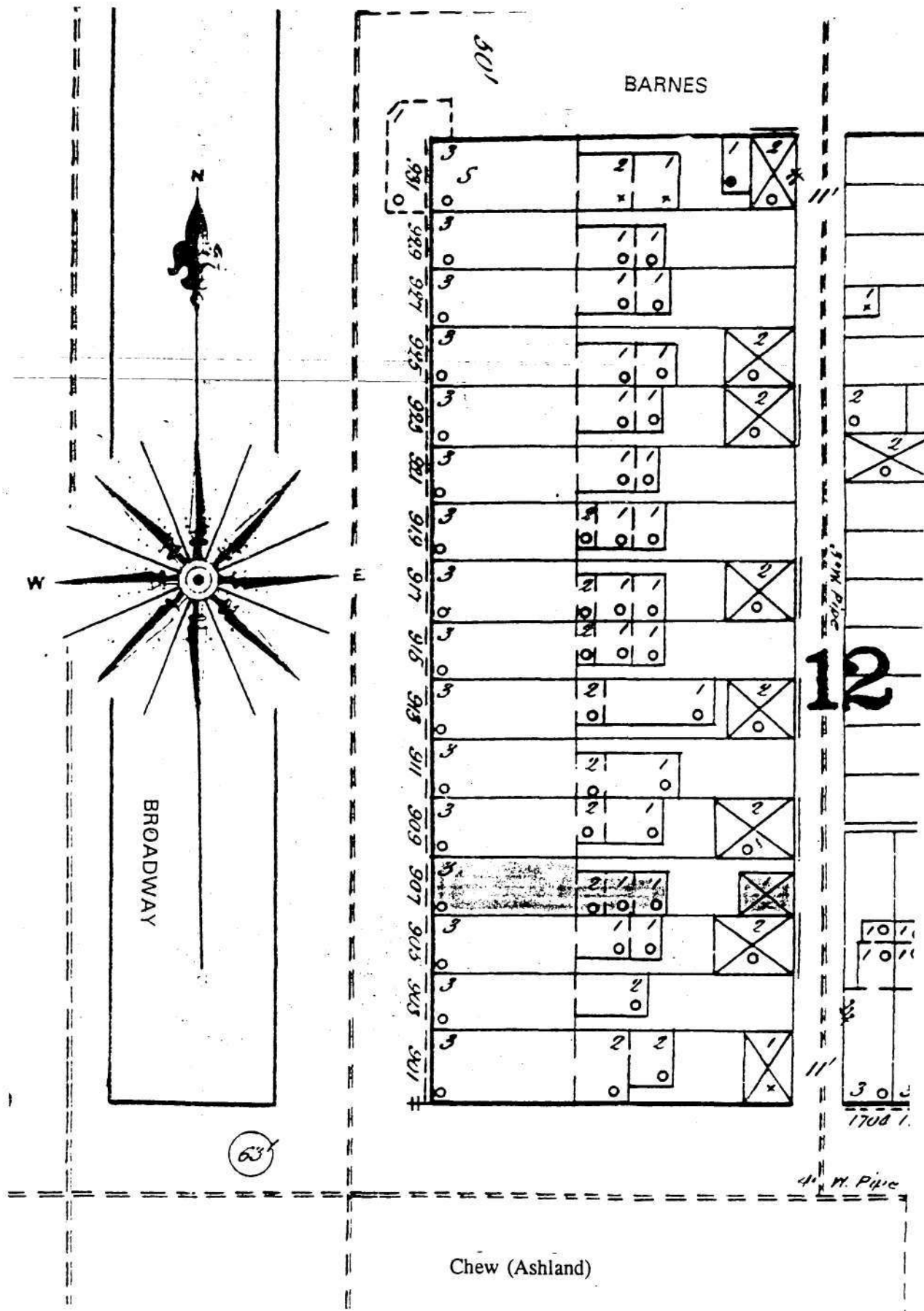


Amos Bailey & Lee, Ltd.
Architects & Planners
1994

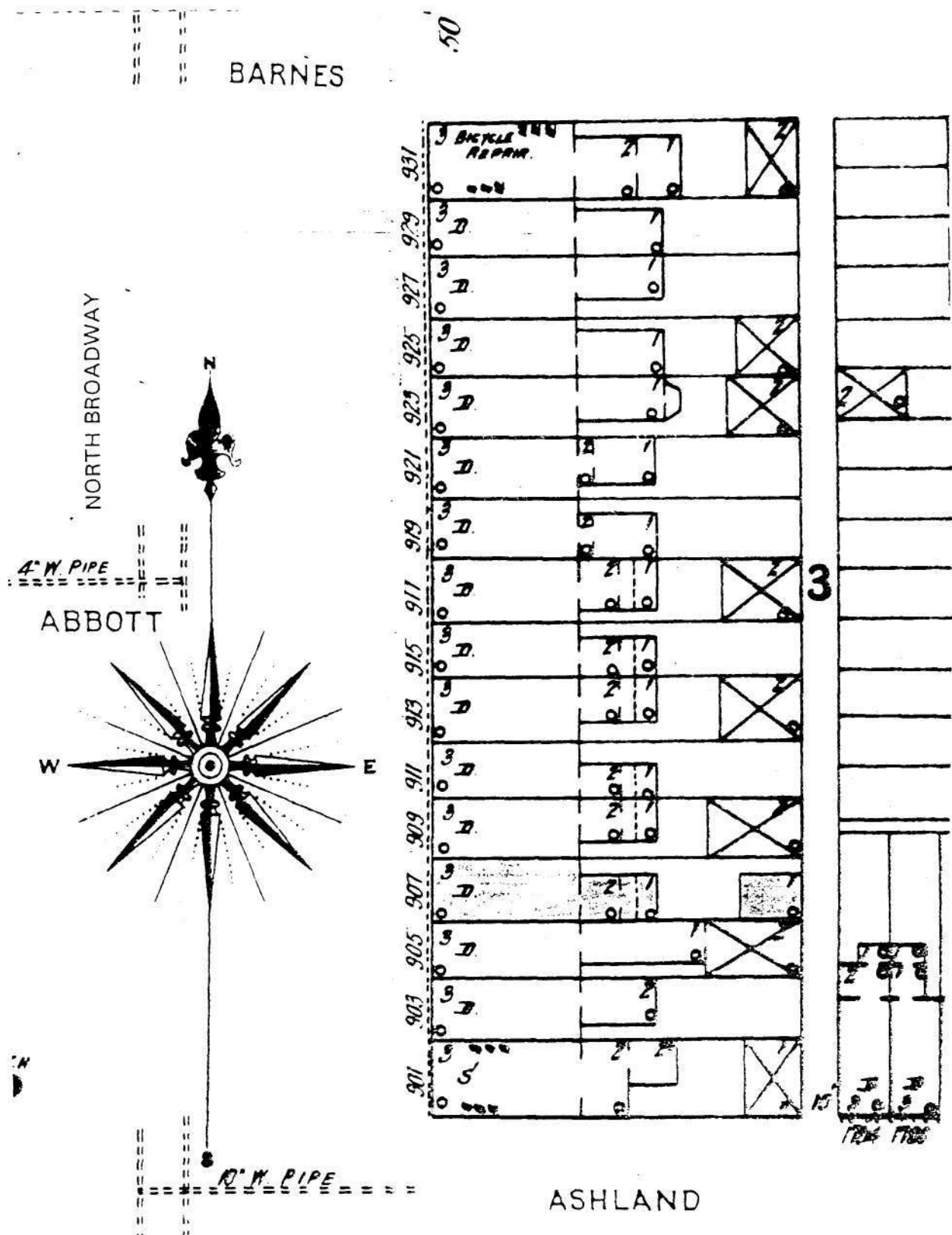


THIRD FLOOR

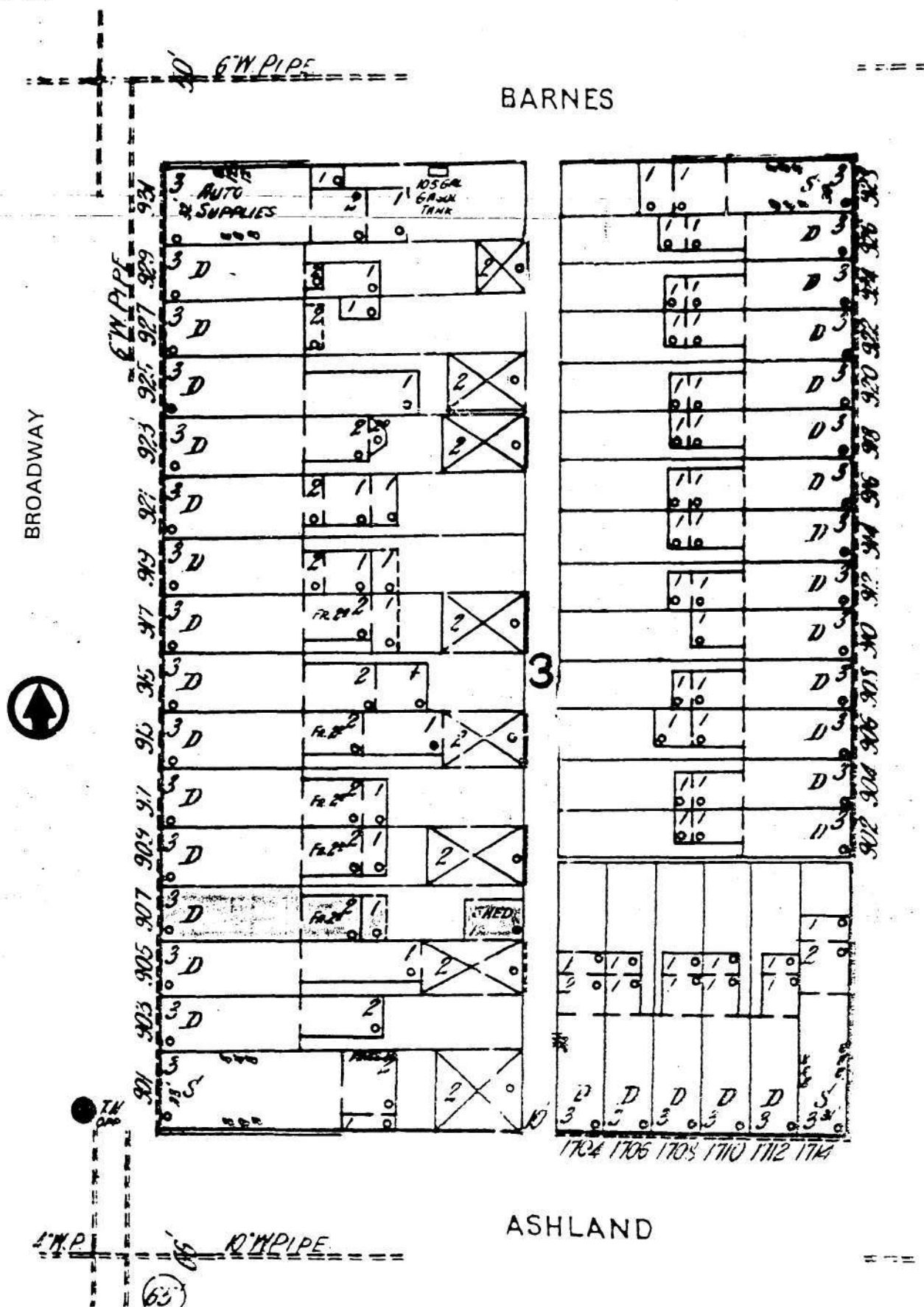
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Baltimore City



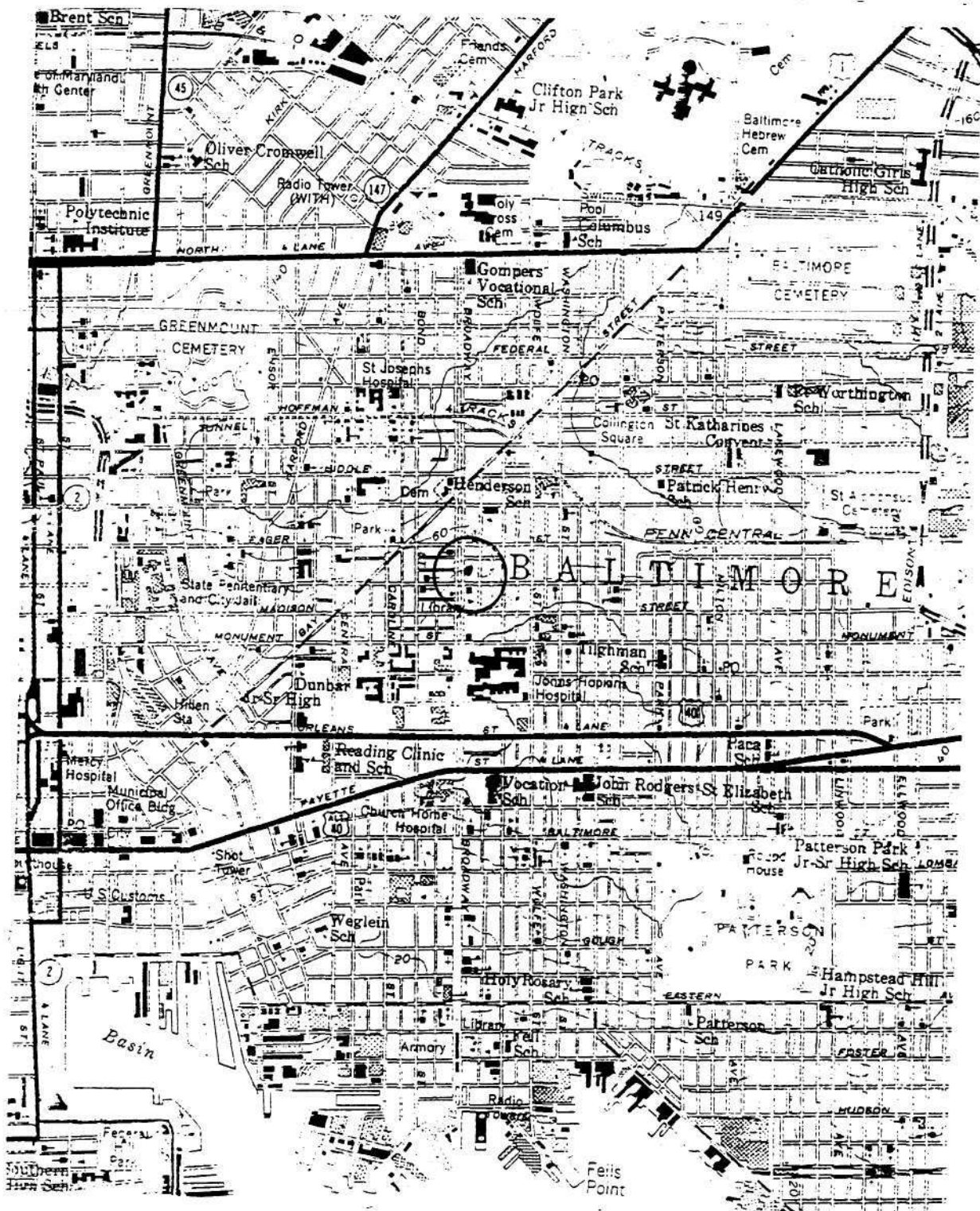
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907 N. Broadway
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B-4519
907 N. Broadway
Baltimore City



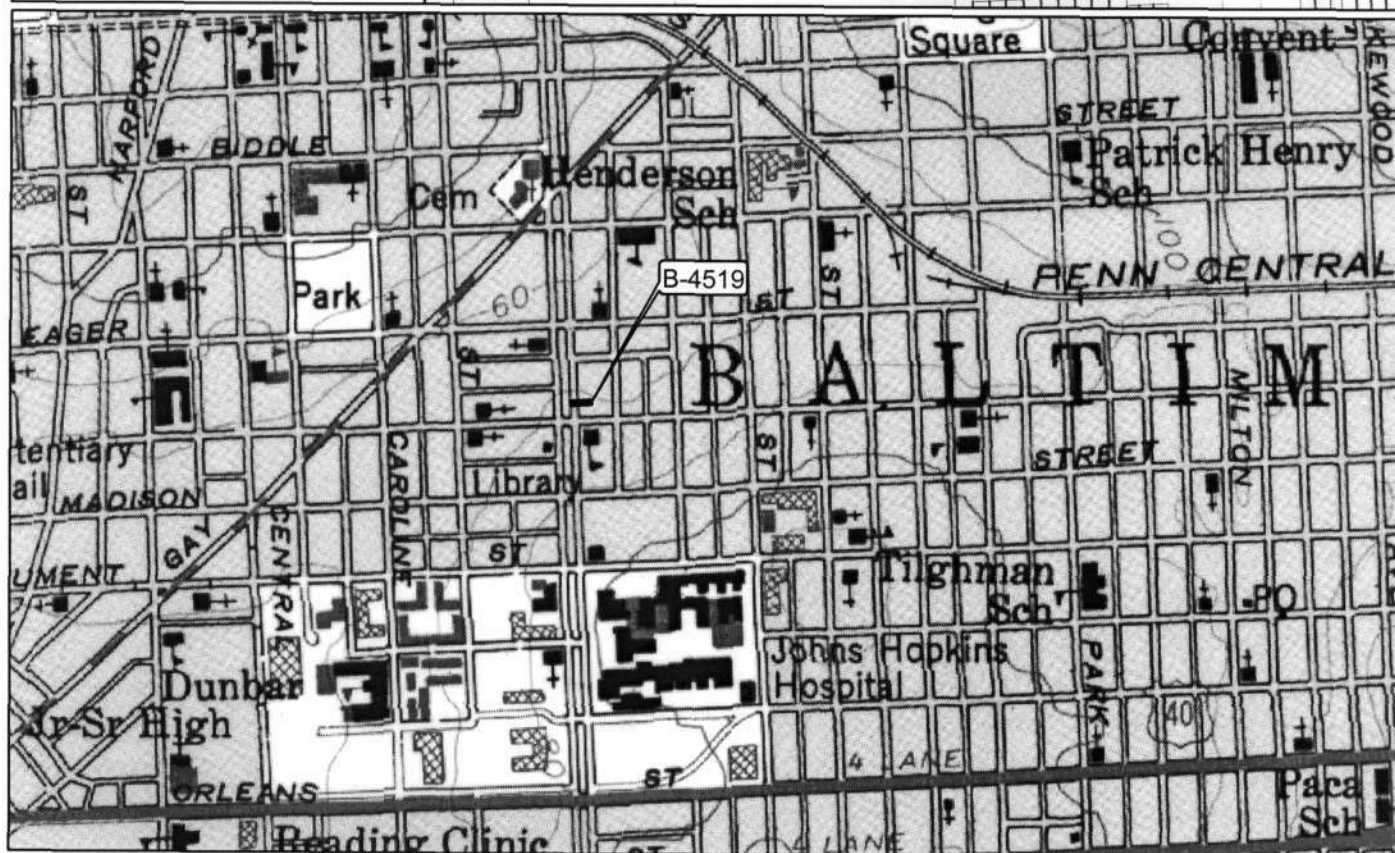
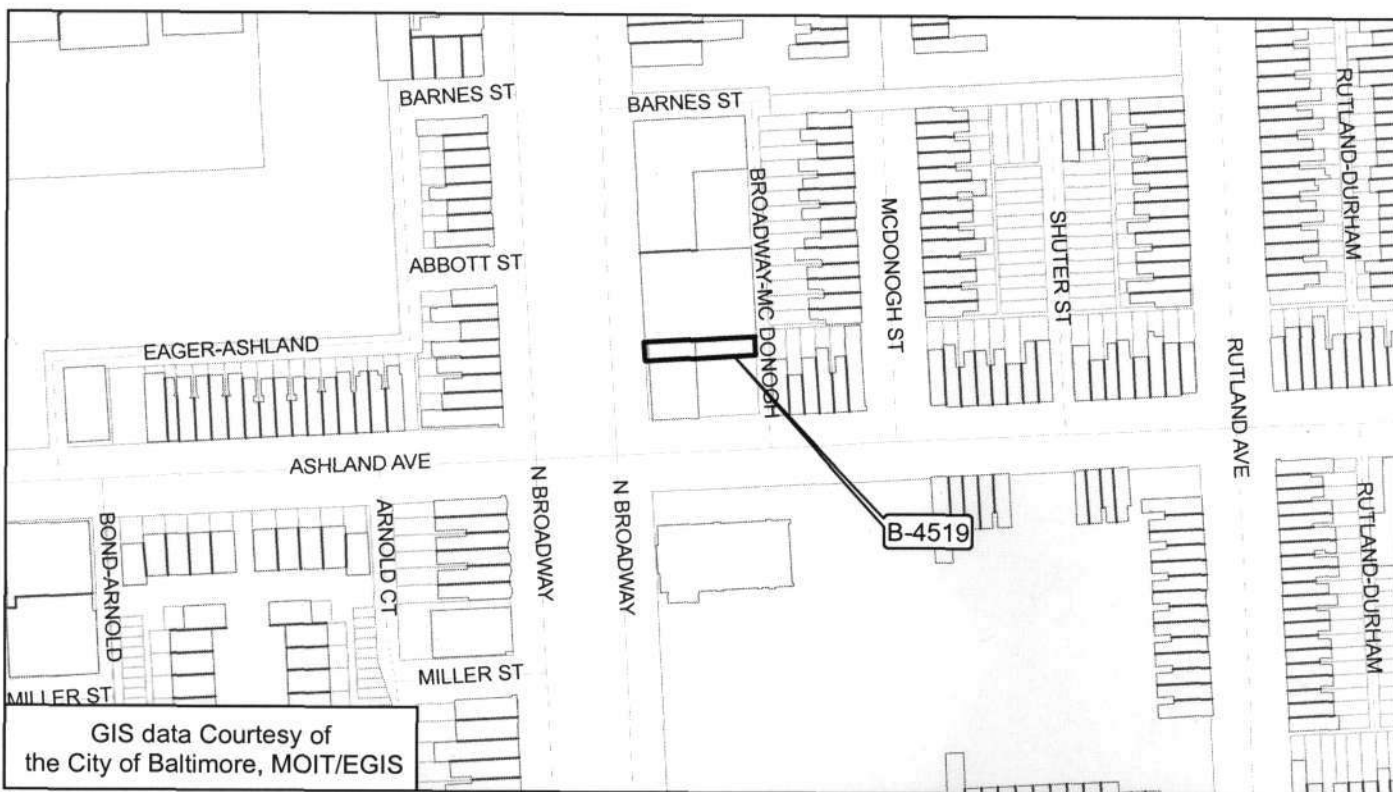
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907 N. Broadway
Baltimore City



Source: Baltimore East USGS Quad
Scale: 1:24000



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907

B-4519

907 N. BROADWAY

BALTIMORE CITY, MD

BETTY BIRD

JULY 1995

MD SHPO

FRONT (WEST) FACADE

1 OF 5



B-4519

907 N. BROADWAY

BALTIMORE CITY, MD

BETTY BIRD

JULY 1995

MD SHPO

VIEW FROM EAST OF REAR

2 OF 5



B-4519

907 N. BROADWAY

BALTIMORE CITY, MD

BETTY BIRD

JULY 1995

MD SHPO

< >813 81-82 NNNNN-BGCU 115

VIEW FROM SW (907 IS LAST ROWHOUSE ON LEFT)

3 OF 5



B-4519

907 N. BROADWAY

BALTIMORE CITY, MD

BEAK BIRD

JULY 1995

MD SHPO

< >025 81-01 NNNNN-BEAU 115

CONTEXT FROM NW-907 IS FIRST
ROWHOUSE FROM LEFT

4 OF 5



B-4519

907 N. BROADWAY

BALTIMORE CITY, MD

BETTY BIRD

JULY 1995

MD SHPO < >007 81+00 NNNNN-13AU 114

DETAIL OF CORNICE, FRONT FACADE

5 OF 5